

# Forces

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## Ancient Forest

Bridget Scott-Shupe

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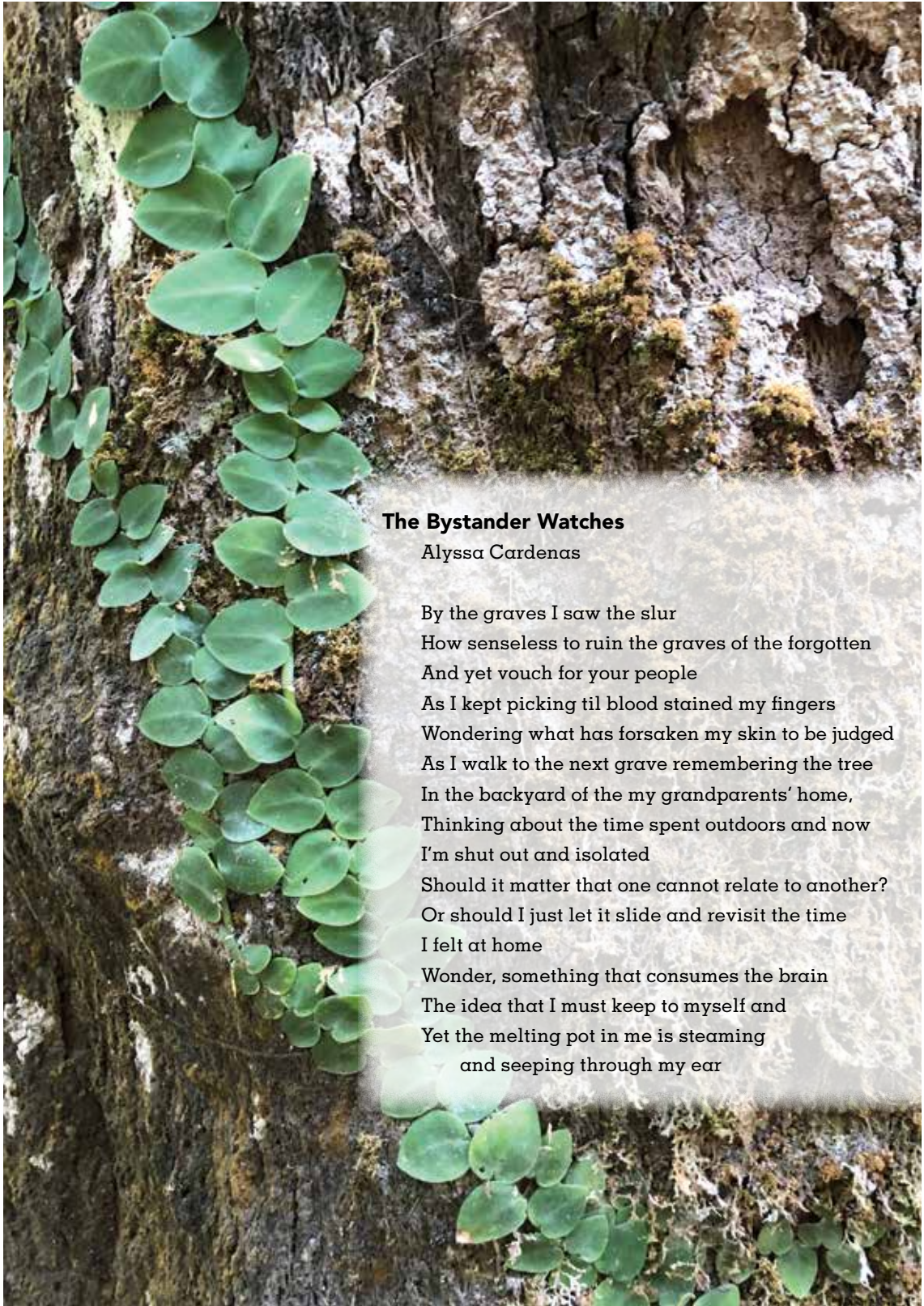
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### **The Bystander Watches**

Alyssa Cardenas

By the graves I saw the slur  
How senseless to ruin the graves of the forgotten  
And yet vouch for your people  
As I kept picking til blood stained my fingers  
Wondering what has forsaken my skin to be judged  
As I walk to the next grave remembering the tree  
In the backyard of the my grandparents' home,  
Thinking about the time spent outdoors and now  
I'm shut out and isolated  
Should it matter that one cannot relate to another?  
Or should I just let it slide and revisit the time  
I felt at home  
Wonder, something that consumes the brain  
The idea that I must keep to myself and  
Yet the melting pot in me is steaming  
and seeping through my ear

**Ancient Forest** Bridget Scott-Shupe